

Message Text

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TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, EAIO, XA

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC: AGENDA ITEM 12 - DRAFT
RESOLUTION ON AFRICAN TRANSPORT DECADE

REF: A. GENEVA 11001; B. GENEVA 11663

1. USDEL MAY SUPPORT DRAFT RESOLUTION ONLY IF OPERATIVE
PARA 3 IS DELETED. DEPT BELIEVES THAT COMMITMENT TO HOLD
A PLEDGING CONFERENCE WOULD BE INADVISABLE AS IT WOULD
RAISE AFRICAN EXPECTATIONS THAT ALMOST SURELY WOULD NOT BE
FULFILLED IF PAST EXPERIENCE WITH PLEDGING CONFERENCES IS
ANY GUIDE. MOST RATIONAL APPROACH FOR BUILDING SUPPORT
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FOR THE DECADE AMONG DONOR COMMUNITY WOULD BE TO ENLIST
TRADITIONAL DONOR INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE IBRD, AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK, EEC, AND ALL PARTS OF THE UN DEVELOP-
MENT SYSTEM IN THE FORMULATION OF PROJECTS AND REQUISITE
FEASIBILITY STUDIES -- A PROCESS WHICH ECA COULD CO-
ORDINATE. TIMING IS ANOTHER FACTOR, AND IN THE DEPT'S
VIEW IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT ANY PROGRAM,

ADEQUATELY ENOUGH PREPARED TO ATTRACT DONOR SUPPORT, COULD BE DRAFTED BY MID-1979. USDEL MAY WISH TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER WEOS IN SEEKING THIS DELETION.

2. DEPT ALSO QUESTIONS THE DELETION OF THE PHRASE QUOTE AND OTHERS IN A POSITION TO DO SO END QUOTE FROM OPERATIVE PARA 4 AS PER REF B. GIVEN THE PARTICULARLY DISADVANTAGED POSITION OF MANY AFRICAN STATES AS A RESULT OF THEIR POOR TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS LINKS PARTICULARLY THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND LAND-LOCKED STATES, SEEMS EVIDENT THAT ALL COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE DECADE. THE DEPT BELIEVES THE DRAFT RESOLUTION'S LANGUAGE SHOULD REFLECT THIS, AND THEREFORE REQUESTS USDEL SEEK APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE REVISION OF PARA 4.

3. IF USDEL IS UNSUCCESSFUL IN REMOVING OPERATIVE PARA 3, US SHOULD ABSTAIN WHEN RESOLUTION COMES TO A VOTE. DEL SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT US VIEWS ON FINANCING THE DECADE REMAIN UNALTERED SINCE THE 63RD ECOSOC AND THE 32ND UNGA (I.E., WE FAVOR VOLUNTARY FUNDING AND RESORTING TO TRADITIONAL DONORS TO MAKE THE DECADE A SUCCESS) BUT THAT WE BELIEVE THAT MUCH MORE PREPARATORY WORK BY ECA, THE WORLD BANK, THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM MUST BE DONE FIRST IDENTIFYING, ANALYZING AND ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES AMONG POSSIBLE PRO-UNCLASSIFIED

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JECTS FOR THE DECADE BEFORE ANY ATTEMPT TO SEEK FUNDING IS SCHEDULED. OUR ABSTENTION WOULD BE BASED SOLELY ON THE RESOLUTION'S CALL FOR A PLEDGING CONFERENCE AND DOES NOT IMPLY ANY DIMINUTION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF THE DECADE. THE USG REMAINS PREPARED TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER DONORS TO EXTEND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THAT FACILITATE THE BASIC NEEDS OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. VANCE

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